

**TOWN OF SWANTON
MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
Swanton Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488**

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

Present: Dan Billado, Selectboard Chair; John Lavoie, William “Turk” Thompson, and James Guilmette, Selectmen; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary; Derick Billado, Animal Control Officer; Chief Leonard Stell, Swanton Village Police Department; Harold Garret, Road Foreman; Heather Buczkowski, Channel 16.

A. Call to Order

Mr. Billado called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Billado led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Agenda Review

Mr. Billado added a discussion on Energtek under “Economic Development.” Mr. Jescavage noted that Joel Clark had requested the addition of the Robin Hood Drive extension discussion. Also, “Road Acceptance & Discontinuance Requirements” had been added to the agenda since its public posting. Mr. Garrett added “Town Office Parking Lot” under Highway.

D. Meeting Topics:

1. Minutes

a) February 2, 2014 SLB Special Meeting

All corrections being made, Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

2. Public Comments

No public comment.

3. Old Business

a) Vote On Solar Siting Standards Resolution

This item related to a letter sent by the Selectboard Chair of Rutland regarding the need for more local involvement in state standards regarding the siting of solar farms. (See Selectboard minutes of January 20, 2015.) Mr. Jescavage stated that he had updated the generic language of the resolution to reflect Swanton specifically. Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to adopt the resolution on solar siting standards. Motion carried.

4. Animal Control Officer

a) SW ACO Monthly Report

Mr. Derick Billado stated that the month of February had been “fairly quiet,” with one dog bite, and two dogs that he impounded after receiving calls that they were at large. Both owners had been located, and the dogs returned to their owners. He mentioned that the chip reader given to him by the Franklin County Humane Society did not appear to be working, as one of the dogs was chipped by the reader would not scan. The Selectboard encouraged him to bring the matter before Rosty Posner of the Franklin County Humane Society.

5. Economic Development

a) Discuss Swanton Chamber of Commerce Business Link

Since the Chamber of Commerce website already included paid links to Swanton businesses, and generated some income for the Chamber from those listings, Mr. Thompson suggested that the Swanton town website direct traffic to the Chamber of Commerce website for a listing of Swanton businesses.

6. Law Enforcement

a) SW Village Police Chief Report

Chief “Joey” Stell came forward. His report included 33 incidents in the Town in January, with 4 traffic tickets for a total of \$973.00 in fines. The department was following up leads regarding the (Village) bank robbery and Pam’s Place incident. He was certain that the incidents were drug-driven. Mr. Billado reported that officer Eugene Rich had informed him that extra police activity was being done in the town. Chief Stell added that the department was coordinating efforts to address aggressive driving, to make use of the highway safety money available to them.

Mr. Guilmette mentioned that the Swanton Recreation Department wanted to get a defibrillator. Did the chief know who might have the best prices? Chief Stell replied that he would put the Swanton Recreation Department in contact with potential vendors, adding that the police department had purchased a refurbished defibrillator for \$900 (instead of \$2200 for a new one). Cathy Fournier requested a refresher course on its use, and Chief Stell said he could set one up for Town employees, at \$5 per person.

Mr. Lavoie asked if the department had been doing any truck weighing, and Chief Stell

said that all trucks weighed recently had come in under the limit; likely that was due to the cold weather.

7. Expenditures

a) General Orders (02/01/15 – 02/17/15)

Cathy Fournier explained that the item regarding Black Dog Electronics Security System included purchase of a new modem and batteries. Chief Stell informed the board that the recently-purchased panic buttons would probably send a signal to the alarm company, which may try to call the office to check on the situation. Since, in a real emergency, that protocol would cost valuable time, he recommended contacting the alarm company to ensure that they would not reverse the call, but instead would immediately contact the police department.

Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to accept the General Orders as printed. Motion carried.

b) Highway Orders (02/01/15 – 02/17/15)

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to accept the highway orders as presented. Motion carried.

c) Payroll (02/01/15 – 02/17/15)

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to accept the Payroll as presented. Motion carried.

8. Liquor Control Commission

a) Review & Possible Approval of Multiple Liquor & Tobacco License Applications

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to exit the Selectboard meeting at 7:30 p.m. and enter into a meeting as the Liquor Control Board. Motion carried. Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to approve and sign the following applications:

1. Hog Island Market – Lakewood Drive
2. Jolley Associates – First Street
3. Champlain Farms – First Street and Canada Street
4. Tim's Shop – Merchants Row
5. Hannaford Supermarket – First Street
6. R. L. Vallee, Inc. – First Street

Motion carried. All applications were signed.

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to exit their meeting as a Liquor Control Board and to resume the regular Selectboard meeting at 7:33 p.m. Motion carried.

9. Highway Department

a) Public Hearing to Name New Subdivision Road as “Harvest Lane”

Mr. Billado opened a public hearing to name a new road, and read the public hearing notice. Mr. Guilmette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lavoie, to approve the road name as “Harvest Lane.” Motion carried.

Mr. Garrett mentioned that the angle of the road’s entry into the town highway made plowing difficult. The Selectboard recommended that he bring the matter to Selectman Joel Clark, who also chaired the Development Review Board that approved such subdivisions.

b) Robin Hood Drive Extension Update

The Selectboard referred to a letter dated August 11, 2010, from VTrans to the former Town Administrator Richard Thompson, stating that “construction of the roadway from Robin Hood Drive to Route 7 can be done in phases but all phases must be completed no later than August 11, 2017.” Mr. William Thompson summed up that the extension completion was mandated by the State of Vermont.

c) Road Acceptance and Discontinuance Requirements

Mr. Jescavage brought the board’s attention to the “complex process” by which to accept a private road or to discontinue a road. He noted that legal trails were included on the certificate of highway mileage. The board would review the requirements as “homework.”

d) New Truck Update

Mr. Billado stated that Selectman Joel Clark (not present) reported that the new truck should be available before the end of March, and the warranty would be reset upon taking possession of the vehicle. Mr. Garrett explained the work still to be completed on the truck. He added that Kevin Lapan’s truck was currently being repaired, regarding an issue that had arisen while the truck was under warranty. The Selectboard was of the opinion that a pre-existing problem should be grandfathered into the warranty, and that the Town should not have to pay for any repairs related to it. Mr. Thompson suggested that Mr. Jescavage should write a letter to inform Clark’s Trucking of the Selectboard’s expectation.

e) Salt and Sand Update

Mr. Garrett stated that he had about 20% of the sand left, with a great deal of salt left. If he were to run out, Mr. Begnoche would sell him some sand, although it would not be sifted.

f) General Issues

Mr. Clark's written report (read by Mr. Billado) informed the board that the new garage safety sensors had been replaced on at least one door. Mr. Garrett should work with Mr. Jescavage and check with VOSHA to determine if the other sensors were needed. Mr. Garrett was of the opinion that some of the sensors were unnecessary.

Mr. Clark's notes further stated that he was working with Mr. Garrett to put out an RFP for paving contracts and fencing as part of the 2015 projects. He had a few changes for the Town Highway report. Mr. Garrett added that he would have a 2015 summer work schedule (subject to change) available by the second meeting of March.

g) Equipment Issues

Mr. Garrett said that he was waiting until after the town meeting to consider a "hot box" (estimated cost \$8200).

h) Road Issues

Mr. Guilmette stated that he had received complaints that people were getting stuck on Hazard Road, because it was not plowed completely. Mr. Garrett stated that Hazard Road was only plowed to the end of the blacktop and had never been plowed completely by the Town. Mr. Billado suggested that Mr. Garrett discuss the matter with Mr. Clark

i) Town Office Parking Lot

Mr. Garrett stated that a trailer and a Jeep (both of which he believed belonged to a nearby tenant) were parked in the lot all year round, but were located in an area that made the lot a "pain in the neck" to plow. He was also concerned that it was only a matter of time before the plow accidentally damaged one of the parked vehicles. Mr. Thompson advised Mr. Garrett to have Chief Stell run the license plate to locate the owner, and then to inform the owner to find another parking location.

10. Correspondence

a) VLCT Proposed Open Meeting Law Changes

Mr. Jescavage drew attention to some of the changes, the bulk of which dealt with teleconference rules. He expressed indignation that the state would criminalize failure to comply with Selectboard notice practices, but would then decriminalize marijuana.

Mr. Billado stated that he had spoken with Mr. Brian Savage, who felt that 9(L) in regard to "sprawl" was "not going anywhere" and would not affect the Southern Growth District. Mr. Garrett said that a state official had told him differently, and Mr. Billado replied that Mr. Savage and Mrs. Marianna Gamache, Swanton's representatives, were willing to come before the Selectboard and discuss the issue.

b) Easement for Village Water Project on Waugh Farm Road

Mr. Garrett explained that the Village needed to cross Waugh Farm Road and, since

boring and sleeving the line was not feasible, requested to open cut the road in exchange for adding a fire hydrant to the road corner on behalf of the Town. Mr. Garrett recommended making an exception to the Town's boring policy for the Village. The Selectboard agreed to give an easement and allow the open road cut.

11. Public Comments (Reprise)

12. Upcoming Events

- a) **Monday, February 23, 2015, Special Informational Meeting @ 7 p.m., at Village Complex, 120 First Street**
- b) **February 26, 2015, Development Review Board @ 7 p.m. Town Office**
- c) **Tuesday, March 3, 2015, Town Meeting Day, Vote 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Village Complex, 120 First Street**
- d) **Wednesday, March 4, 2015 Selectboard Organizational Meeting @ 7 p.m.,**
- e) **Thursday, February 5, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Vermont Council on Rural Development Community Visit @ Village Complex**

13. Any Other Necessary Business

a) Review Information Meeting Slide Show

The Selectboard reviewed the annual informational meeting slide show briefly. Mr. Garrett asked Mr. Billado to clarify at the meeting that the highway budget was not so high because of the budget itself, but because of the articles underneath it, namely, the fire department extrication equipment. Mr. Billado added that Mr. Beliveau, Village Manager, had explained to him that one article asked for \$30,000, and another asked that, if the former article were to pass, the approximately \$15,000 of carryover should be applied toward that \$30,000, to offset the total cost. This would result in the Town only paying 75% of the remaining cost, for an estimated cost of about \$10,000—an amount much less than was formerly supposed.

b) Other Business

Mr. Billado informed the board of Joel Clark's written statements regarding the following items:

- A reminder of the Community Visit follow-up on March 5 at the Village Complex. This follow-up would take the information from the Community Visit and create actionable items.
- A 41-year armor guard veteran had stated his appreciation of the 2014 town report dedication to the Vermont Air National Guard, which had named a plane for Swanton.

E. Executive Session (Legal Issues)

No executive session was needed.

F. Adjournment

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. Motion carried.

Typed on February 18, 2015
Minutes by Yaasha Wheeler
Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date